

We claim:

1. A method of processing an insurance application, comprising the steps of:

receiving an application for a policy of insurance from a user over a computer network;

automatically approving or denying the application based on a comparison of data contained in the application with stored underwriting criteria;

automatically offering a policy of insurance to the user in response to the application over the computer network if the application is approved and presenting the policy to the user for electronic acceptance; and

issuing the policy upon electronic acceptance thereof by the user,

wherein all of the steps of said method occur during a single user session on the computer network.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored criteria are stored in a database.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored criteria are stored in executable code.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the applicant is the insured party of the policy and the insured party purchases the policy directly from the issuer thereof.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

receiving a credit card number from the applicant prior to issuance of the policy for use in payment of premiums due in connection therewith.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the policy of insurance is a policy insuring a computer against loss or damage.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the policy of insurance is a policy insuring property against loss or damage.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the policy of insurance is an accidental death policy.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the policy of insurance is a disability policy.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the policy of insurance is a major medical policy.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the policy of insurance is a casualty policy.

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12. The method of claim 1, wherein the policy of insurance insures against at least two of loss or damage to property, casualty, accidental death, disability, and medical expense.

13. A method of processing an application for an amendment to an existing policy of insurance, comprising the steps of:

receiving an application for an amendment to a policy of insurance from a user over a computer network;

automatically approving or denying the application based on a comparison of data contained in the application with stored underwriting criteria;

automatically offering an amended policy of insurance to the user in response to the application over the computer network if the application is approved and presenting the amended policy to the user for electronic acceptance; and

issuing the amended policy upon electronic acceptance thereof by the user,

wherein all of the steps of said method occur during a single user session on the computer network.

14. A computerized system for processing an insurance application during a single user session, comprising:

means for receiving an application for a policy of insurance from a user over a computer network during a user session;

means for automatically approving or denying the application during the user session based on a comparison of data contained in the application with stored underwriting criteria;

means for automatically offering a policy of insurance to the user during the user session in response to the application over the computer network if the application is approved and presenting the policy during the user session to the user for electronic acceptance; and

means for issuing the policy during the user session upon electronic acceptance thereof by the user.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the applicant is the insured party of the policy and the insured party purchases the policy directly from the issuer thereof.

16. The system of claim 14, further comprising:

means for receiving a credit card number from the applicant prior to issuance of the policy for use in payment of premiums due in connection therewith.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the policy of insurance is a policy insuring a computer against loss or damage.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein the policy of insurance is a policy insuring property against loss or damage.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein the policy of insurance is an accidental death policy.

20. The system of claim 14, wherein the policy of insurance is a disability policy.

21. The system of claim 14, wherein the policy of insurance is a major medical policy.

22. The system of claim 14, wherein the policy of insurance is a casualty policy.

23. A computerized system for processing an insurance application during a single user session, comprising:

a server; and

a database;

wherein said server transmits an application for a policy of insurance to a user over a computer network during a user session in response to a request therefor from the user;

wherein the server automatically approves or denies the application during the user session based on a comparison of data contained in the application with stored underwriting criteria;

wherein said server automatically offers a policy of insurance to the user during the user session in response to the application over the computer network if the application is approved and presents the policy during the user session to the user for electronic acceptance; and

wherein said server issues the policy during the user session upon electronic acceptance thereof by the user.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the applicant is the insured party of the policy and the insured party purchases the policy directly from the issuer thereof.

25. The system of claim 23, wherein:

said server receives a credit card number from the applicant prior to issuance of the policy for use in payment of premiums due in connection therewith.

26. The system of claim 23, wherein the policy of insurance is a policy insuring a computer against loss or damage.

27. The system of claim 23, wherein the policy of insurance is a policy insuring property against loss or damage.

28. The system of claim 23, wherein the policy of insurance is an accidental death policy.

29. The system of claim 23, wherein the policy of insurance is a disability policy.

30. The system of claim 23, wherein the policy of insurance is a major medical policy.

31. The system of claim 23, wherein the policy of insurance is a casualty policy.

32. A computer-readable medium tangibly embodying instructions which, when executed by a computer, implement a process comprising the steps of:

receiving an application for a policy of insurance from a user over a computer network;

automatically approving or denying the application based on a comparison of data contained in the application with stored underwriting criteria;

automatically offering a policy of insurance to the user in response to the application over the computer network if the

application is approved and presenting the policy to the user for electronic acceptance; and

issuing the policy upon electronic acceptance thereof by the user,

wherein all of the steps of said process occur during a single user session on the computer network.

33. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the applicant is the insured party of the policy and the insured party purchases the policy directly from the issuer thereof.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the process further comprises:

receiving a credit card number from the applicant prior to issuance of the policy for use in payment of premiums due in connection therewith.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the policy of insurance is a policy insuring a computer against loss or damage.

36. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the policy of insurance is a policy insuring property against loss or damage.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the policy of insurance is an accidental death policy.

38. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the policy of insurance is a disability policy.

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the policy of insurance is a major medical policy.

40. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the policy of insurance is a casualty policy.

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